

## Message Text

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ACTION SAB-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /045 W  
-----211834Z 027089 /44

O 211751Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6769  
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1151

FOR AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PN, CS, MX  
SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL BRIEFING

REF: STATE 60590

1. CHARGE RAISED SUBJECT BRIEFINGS ON CANAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT ODUBER ON MARCH 18 AT DINNER IN PRESIDENT'S HONOR HOSTED BY VISITING COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN. FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL, CHARGE EXPLAINED THAT AMBASSADOR BUNKER AND LINOWITZ HAD BEEN CONTEMPLATING BRIEFING KEY LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS ON STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. PROCESS WOULD BEGIN WEEK OF MYKCH 21 WITH VISITS TO BOGOTA AND CARACAS FOR BRIEFING OF PRESIDENTS LOPEZ MICHELSEN AND PEREZ. SECOND ROUND OF BRIEFINGS, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE MEXICO CITY AND SAN JOSE, WOULD BE SCHEDULED AT A LATER DATE.

2. PRESIDENT ODUBER REPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ AT ANY TIME AND TO LEARN U.S. VIEW OF STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE NOTED THAT PANAMANIAN  
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NEGOTIATORS HAD STOPPED IN SAN JOSE THE PREVIOUS WEEK EN ROUTE TO MEXICO. THEY HAD LEFT HIM WITH IMPRESSION THAT QUESTIONS OF DURATION OF NEW TREATY AND GUARANTEE OF NEUTRALITY HAD BEEN RESOLVED IN PRINCIPLE AND THAT MOST DIFFICULT REMAINING ISSUE IS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF ZONIANS.

3. QUESTION OF BRIEFINGS WAS TAKEN UP SEPARATELY WITH FONMIN

GONZALO FACIO AT SAME OCCASSION. FACIO WAS ALSO ENTHUSIASTIC. SINCE HE WILL BE IN ISRAEL AND SPAIN DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS OF APRIL, FACIO REQUESTED THAT BRIEFING VISIT BE SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME AFTER HIS RETURN.

4. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION SAME EVENING, PRESIDENT LOPEZ MICHELSEN TOLD CHARGE THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT TO BOGOTA OF AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND LINOWITZ. HE SAID THAT HE RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO WORK OUT THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF A NEW TREATY ARRANGEMENT BUT THAT RESOLUTION OF THE CANAL ISSUE WAS CRITICAL FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE FUTURE OF U.S. LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE SATISFACTORILY. KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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